

Structure Design Staff Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 25, 2008

Conference Room C

11:00 AM

1. TMT Presentation..... Kelly

Kelly Damron gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning TMT and the resulting upcoming changes to the Department. She provided a handout to all attendees.

Some of her major points:

Transformation – What does it mean?

1. Working together for a common purpose.
Our goals:
 - Make our transportation network *safer*.
 - Make our transportation network move people and goods more *efficiently*.
 - Make our infrastructure *last longer*.
 - Make our organization a place that *works well*.
 - Make our organization a *great place* to work.
2. Planning and prioritizing our work
3. Delivering our project, programs and services effectively on time and on budget.
4. Measuring our performance and reporting our successes.
5. Developing our employees by having the right people with the right set of skills in the right jobs at the right time to enable NCDOT to accomplish our mission.

Our Mission:

Connecting people and places in North Carolina – safely and efficiently with accountability and environmental sensitivity.

2. Safety/Personnel/New Employee Orientation.....Darlene
Safety - Cubicles and carpet in PDL's group to be taken up & carpet replaced due to water damage.

New Employee Orientation – There is a new checklist and new Employee Orientation guide that needs to be filled out for all new employees. Darlene does the front sheet and gives to the supervisor to complete thru item 4. Supervisors are to turn in to Darlene with the orientation package on the second day in the office. She'll return at one month for completion.

3. Bridge Ratings..... Greg
Round 3 of Bridge Ratings – Legislature this session increased the legal loads for all configurations for agriculture vehicles – Sept. 1 law by Feds to report all affected bridges. 9,500 bridges already run in windows based system, but 2,500 bridges are left to get into the system and get their updated ratings. David Snoke will be leading technical side, and Charles Hunt will handle coordination. Charles will give weekly updates to Feds on

progress. Charles stated that there are still some curved girder ratings to check if anyone is available.

4. Number of Structures Let..... Greg

2008 Bridges Let = 212 thru December of this year by Structure Design which met our target and is the target for years to come after “down” years in 2009, 2010. Greg thanked the squads for their hard work in achieving this goal. We were able to spend all our Bridge Replacement funds.

The Board of Transportation is looking at putting more money in the Planning Procurements to up the number of Bridge projects to be let in years to come.

5. Railroad Issues Allen

NCCR has asked for 24 feet VC for bridges spanning their tracks, but Allen passed out a copy of correspondence from DOT management denying that request. Allen stated that Project Engineers need to be sure to send Preliminary General Drawings to the Railroad at least 18 months prior to lettings so all issues can be worked out and lettings aren’t delayed.

6. PM Mid-term Review/PDA Allen
Supervisors need to pull them out and get the interims in the works.

New Performance Metrics system to run concurrent starting Oct. 1, 2008. We will have the current and new systems both for Oct. 2008- March 2009.

7. Working Days for Deck Pours Allen

Allen passed out a handout of July 17, 2008 email from Mike Robinson stating that the guidelines for calculating working days are based on a standard length of 85-90 feet. For spans longer than this, additional time will be required.

8. Plan Review & Turn-in..... Allen
Work towards getting plans turned-in on time to Paul Garrett.

Back up turn-in from 12 weeks to 14 weeks where possible.

9. Engineering DevelopmentBrian/Gichuru
LRFR training now looking at Nov.-Dec. time frame (all day session).

A policy memo was issued in August 2008 stating that 0.6” strands will be used for prestressed superstructures. However, prestressed piles will stay with 0.5” strands – stick with current standards for now. At a recent meeting with other state DOT’s and producers, there was no consensus to change prestressed pile strand size.

10. SDU databaseTom
Go to “S” drive >> ‘share’ folder>> ‘structure projects’

TKK has started database listing all projects and design information such as roadway width, span length, skew, girder spacing, etc. It is available for everyone to access; the information will be helpful to other groups designing or detailing similar structures.

11. S/R Tier Bridges.....Tom
ADT of 1000 vpd or less – really want to do pile bents if possible – try to get away from drilled piers if possible. Ask about drilled in piles – it is a new detail so not all the Geotech engineers are familiar with it, but in some cases it will be most economical. Need to ask about it, especially if they call for drilled piers with cored slabs.

Be sure to look at all projects to see if there is an opportunity to size as sub-regional, to make sure none slipped thru during this transition period.

12. Other
TKK – plan quality looks good and has improved in the last few months. However, prestressed girder release strengths still look high. Designers, squad leaders and Project Engineers please pay attention to this and keep as low as we can. High release strengths are a big deal when it get over 6,000 psi – don't automatically set at 80% of the 28 day strength. Try to get as low as possible- reduce by 100 psi increments to get the lowest possible for each design.